

**BRITISH GERIATRICS SOCIETY  
ENGLAND COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Marjory Warren House, 31 St John's Square,  
London, EC1M 4DN

**Present:** Dr A Arora, Dr M Baxter, Dr A Clegg, Dr R Curless, Dr Adam Darowski, Dr D Forsyth(Chair), Dr P Gosh, Dr N Lo, Dr S Loharuka, Dr C Nicholl, Dr M Patel, Dr A Stanners, Dr T Solanki and Professor J Young

**In attendance:** Mrs S Allport and Mr A Mair

**EC09/01 Welcome and Apologies**

**Action**

Apologies were received from: Dr P Belfield, Dr D Dasgupta, Professor M Datta-Chaudhuri, Dr C Long, Dr N Malik, and Dr S Morgan.

Dr Forsyth welcomed Dr Adam Darowski the new regional representative for Oxford.

**EC09/02 Engaging the regions**

Professor Young has met with Professor Mulley and their initial discussions produced the following list:

- Giving the regional chairs the title of President
- Harmonising with the local RCP advisors
- Having a local newshound
- Increased involvement with commissioning through a regional lead
- Regional champions for education and training especially in care homes and with PAM's
- A nursing home champion for each region
- Closer involvement with Nurses and PAM's
- More regional involvement in the awarding of Society medals
- Involving younger members more
- Recruitment drives especially non doctors.

Prior to the meeting, each region had been asked to consider and discuss with the local membership questions around their regional structure, engagement of the membership, extending the membership and developing a greater educational role:

**Oxford**

- Their doctors are more integrated into medicine which pulls them away from the BGS.
- They have 2 meetings a year in Oxford and other locations and one meeting is held jointly with East Anglia

**East Anglia**

- Information is sent out via e-mail but there is not much response. Their clinical excellence awards advisor has difficulty with the new SHA structure as he doesn't know the members who are new to the region.
- They have 3 meetings a year, one with Oxford. The last meeting was poorly attended despite an excellent programme.
- Time is an issue as trusts are suspicious of allowing BGS activities.

#### Trent

- Attendance is poor despite it being free with an excellent speaker.
- Members are allowing their trainees to attend instead of them.
- Hard to define the region – overlap with Yorkshire
- They are not sure if the meetings should be to train the trainees or the consultants or to disseminate BGS information
- It is a very large region so difficult to know where to hold the meetings.
- Concerned that the trainees do not know what the BGS do.

#### Trainees

- There is more involvement and interaction now than before, possibly due to the Specialist Certificate Examination.
- Previously there was very little communication.
- Perhaps we should consider a new member pack that explains what the society does and who the regional contacts are?

#### Northern

- Having problems with the e-mail list as it is not up to date
- Their meetings are linked to trainee training sessions.
- Consultant numbers are down.
- They have a guest lecture and research presentations.
- No longer know what the BGS is for.
- Active members are moving into other specialties and their societies.

#### West Midlands

- Have 2 meetings a year. An e-mail is sent monthly to update the members.
- They are also trying to develop a quarterly e-newsletter.
- Meetings are well attended – the next one is oversubscribed.
- We should consider liaison with other bodies such as Age Concern and Stroke.
- There is an educational role for geriatricians in care homes and with nurses and PAMS but time is an issue.

#### NW Thames

- They have 3 meetings a year. 1 with NE Thames.
- They have an academic meeting then a business one. It is hard to squeeze the BGS business in.
- An e-mail summary of the Council meetings is sent to all members.

#### SE Thames

- They have 2 meetings a year.
- There is good attendance for the scientific part but not the business part. So for the last two meetings they have moved the business part to the middle of the meeting.
- Membership does not feel engaged and we need to raise the internal profile of the society.
- Locally they are considering clinical networks.

#### Yorkshire

- They also sandwich the business part of the meeting. Meetings were free but the pharma sponsorship has now dried up. They are very well attended but a fee will need to be introduced.
- They have a very large region and the boundary with Trent is confusing.
- The members are very positive about a non-doctor recruitment drive but

- they should have equal membership status.
- Education of nursing home staff etc would need to be cost effective and stand up to training currently available.

#### Mersey

- They have 3 meetings a year and attendance is variable. They are held centrally.
- Communication is by e-mail and a summary of Council meetings is circulated.
- They are trying to recruit more ST3 and 4's and also investigating how many PAM's are in the area to see if they should hold an event for them.
- They are struggling with sponsorship so will now be charging £25 per meeting.

#### South West

- They have 2 meetings a year with 40-60 attendees. The business part is held at lunchtime.
- Communications are an issue with e-mail addresses.
- Time is also a factor.

#### SW Thames

- Twice yearly meetings. We feel that there is a need to attract new (and younger!) members from newly appointed consultants and SpRs.
- Region does not feel fully engaged. The England Council representative is a link but a visit from one of the senior officers of the society at one of our regional meetings might help to bridge the gap.
- Members are very busy clinicians and carving out sufficient time is a major factor affecting the ability of members to be more active in promoting the work of the BGS.
- Increasing membership is desirable. Opinions were mixed as to whether more nurse and therapists should be attracted. However, our specialty is multidisciplinary and perhaps that should be reflected in the membership.
- Educating nursing and care home staff comes down to having sufficient time and resources to commit to teaching and training including Care Home staff

JY

#### **EC09/03 Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

The minutes were approved.

#### **EC09/04 Matters Arising**

(a) *Deputy Chair*

Dr Mehool Patel was confirmed as the new Deputy Chair of England Council

(b) *Committee Vacancies*

There is a vacancy for a member of England Council to sit as a trustee on UKMC. England Council has three seats the first two being taken by the Chair and Deputy. Dr Patel is currently the third representative. UKMC meet 6 times a year and it is desirable to have at least two of the three representatives at each meeting. If anyone is interested can they please contact Mrs Allport.

ALL

Council were asked to note the appointment of Dr Colin Borland to the Finance Committee as England representatives.

An additional vacancy has arisen on the Finance Committee and Council were asked to disseminate the vacancy to their regions, an advert will also appear in the next newsletter.

**ALL**

**EC09/05 UKMC Minutes 22 January 2009**

The minutes were circulated in advance and noted.

The CME Journal has now been adopted as the Society's official CME Journal and Mr Mair is meeting with RILA this week to finalise financial arrangements.

The Society has also been asked to help rewrite part of PACES to include more geriatrics and a sub-committee of the Education and Training Committee are taking this forward.

**EC09/06 Intermediate Care National Audit Update**

A copy of the pilot was circulated in advance. Audit 1 relates to local clinical governance procedures and Audit 2 involves a case note review of consecutive discharges from an intermediate care service.

It was agreed that we would disseminate via e-mail and include the Society's freepost details for returning the forms.

AGILE have offered us £1000 and Dr Forsyth is meeting with Mr Mair shortly to see if we can increase this with BGS funding.

**EC09/07 Consultations**

(a) *CQC on Reviews 2990/10*

Dr Patel's draft had been circulated in advance. Council were asked to return any comments to Mrs Allport by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**.

**ALL**

(b) *CQC Statement of Involvement*

This is the third in a series of 8 consultations that CQC will be issuing. Dr Patel has drafted the responses to the first two so volunteered to remain as the author for the rest. He has a summary of his first two responses which he will circulate to Council.

**MP**

Initial comments were that they should carry over the good work of the other three organisations, keep consulting and encourage the use of other groups such as Age Concern and Help the Aged to inform regulation. Additionally our response should resonate with that of Age Concern and Help the Aged.

(c) *DH Common Assessment Framework for Adults*

Dr Forsyth offered to prepare the draft as he will be providing the BGS part of the OPSF response.

**DF**

**EC09/08 Older Peoples Specialist Society Forum**

Minutes of the December meeting had been circulated and they are meeting again in March.

There is no update on replacing Professor Philp as Tsar for Older People.

**EC09/09 England Council Business Plan**

Council reviewed the business plan there were no amendments.

**EC09/10 Any Other Business**

(a) *Recommended staffing levels*

Raised by Dr Arora's region (West Midlands) – is there a recommended staffing level? The Society has maintained that definitive figures are problematic as elderly care units vary considerably. It was suggested that the focus should be on outcome measures and then what staff do you need to achieve these.

Dr Forsyth offered to raise this with the OPSF members to see if the other professional societies had guidance.

**DF**

(b) *Thanks to Dr Duncan Forsyth*

As this is Dr Forsyth's last meeting Professor Young wished to record the Council's thanks for the high standard that has been set under his chairmanship and how hard he has worked.

**EC09/11 Dates of Future England Council Meetings**

14.00 Wednesday 3 June 2009

14.00 Thursday 22 October 2009 **NB Date change**

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Signed by Professor John Young

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009